We've updated our Privacy and Cookies Policy

We've made some important changes to our Privacy and Cookies Policy and we want you to know what this means for you and your data.

OK

Find out what's changed

Carl Beech: Liar, fraudster and paedophile

26 July 2019

Carl Beech is a liar, fraudster and paedophile.

But for 18 months between 2014 and 2016, he was the star witness in a high-profile investigation into allegations of sexual abuse and murder, involving MPs, generals and senior figures in the intelligence services.

Those falsely accused had their properties raided, and one of them - ex-MP Harvey Proctor - lost both his home and his job.

At the time, Beech, a former NHS paediatric nurse, was working as a hospital inspector with the Care Quality Commission. He was also the governor of two schools in Gloucestershire where he lived.

Police referred to him only using the pseudonym "Nick", to protect his identity.

His claims that he and others had been the victim of sexual abuse by a "VIP ring" in the late 1970s and early 1980s, and that he had witnessed three child murders by members of the same group, featured prominently on BBC News, in a British national newspaper and on a now-defunct website called Exaro.

However, while he was promoting his lies, Beech was busy downloading child abuse imagery and covertly filming a teenage boy.

The investigation - known as Operation Midland - would cost some £2.5m. But by the time it was wound up, not one arrest had been made.

Beech, however, received more than £20,000 in public money as compensation for injuries he claimed were inflicted during the alleged abuse - injuries he had never actually suffered.

After a 12-week trial, Beech was sentenced to 18 years in prison, having been found guilty of 12 counts of perverting the course of justice, one of fraud, and several child sexual offences.

But what led the 51-year-old divorced father of a teenage son to make the allegations in the first place?

Abuse 'parties'

Born as Carl Stephen Gass in Wrexham in 1968, his parents separated when he was young.

In 1976, his mother Charmian remarried Major Raymond Beech, a soldier based in Wiltshire.

Carl took his stepfather's surname and spent time in the county living in a military property. But when that marriage broke down he moved with his mother first to Bicester in Oxfordshire, and then, in 1979, to the London suburb of Kingston upon Thames.

It was this period of his life that Beech would build his allegations around, claiming that between the ages of seven and 16 he was abused by a powerful paedophile ring that included the late British media personality Jimmy Savile.

In 2012, Beech approached the Metropolitan Police, which had launched Operation Yewtree to investigate alleged sexual abuse in the wake of the Savile scandal.

They referred him to Wiltshire Police as the most relevant to his claims.

Speaking to a detective from Wiltshire, Beech claimed he had been abused by his stepfather, before being introduced by him to a group of other alleged abusers including Savile, an unnamed lieutenant colonel - whom he identified as the ringleader - and up to 20 other unidentified men.

The only two people he named were Raymond Beech and Savile. When asked by the police for other names, Beech said that he didn't know them.

He claimed that he was regularly taken out of school to be abused and that this continued even after his mother had separated from his stepfather.

He said that over the nine years, an unnamed driver took him to abuse "parties" at military bases, and later at central London locations.

He also told detectives that a friend called Aubrey had also been abused by the same group.

But after examining the wider claims, Wiltshire Police decided not to take any further action.

The inquiry had found that Charmian had only been married to Raymond Beech for a few months, and that she had subsequently sought a non-molestation injunction against him.

Army records suggested he had a drink problem, had been violent towards Charmian, and retired from the army on mental health grounds after they divorced. He died in 1995.

'Carl Survivor'

In 2013, Beech came across a post on an abuse charity website. Documentary makers were looking to interview male survivors of Savile for a programme to be broadcast on a satellite TV channel.

Beech readily volunteered, and appeared anonymously using his middle name Stephen.

The documentary didn't make much of an impact, and Beech continued building up his sexual abuse allegations online. It was this activity that gained him far greater attention.

In the years immediately following the Savile scandal, parts of the internet were rife with allegations of historical sexual abuse by prominent people.

And Sunday newspapers regularly ran stories about VIP abuse rings and alleged cover-ups.

At the time, some MPs - including the now Deputy Labour Leader Tom Watson - were prominently campaigning on the issue of historical abuse.

Several well-known people had been arrested - and some charged and convicted - for non-recent sexual offences.

But the rumours online went beyond these inquiries and raised the spectre of a far bigger conspiracy.

ALAMY

Beech's online allegations, therefore, came amid claims of establishment cover-ups, controversies over lost dossiers of evidence, calls for a national inquiry into child abuse, and rumours about which famous figure would next be revealed as a paedophile.

His own accounts, which would eventually draw together several existing conspiracy theories, presented himself as the victim of a sadistic culture at the heart of British power.

Into his story went several men and locations already the subject of online rumours, others who were known to be under investigation by separate inquiries, as well as senior figures within the armed forces and military intelligence.

In total, he was accusing 10 new men.

Beech eventually went on to tweet and blog under the name "Carl Survivor", with graphic posts about sexual abuse and torture appearing on a website for those allegedly abused as children.

In one post he referred to "very powerful people" who had controlled every part of his life.

In others, he penned poems describing nightmarish events like being locked in a room full of wasps.

"Sometimes when I had broken the rules, been bad. They shut me in a room of wasps all mad," he wrote.

GETTY IMAGES

A retired child protection manager - Peter McKelvie - brought the posts to the attention of a BBC journalist, who met Beech but didn't look into his claims or follow up with a story.

Articles about Beech's claims and a subsequent police investigation did, however, begin to appear on the Exaro News website. Mark Conrad, a then Exaro reporter, met Beech and maintained regular contact with him.

As he went through Beech's allegations, Conrad showed him 42 images, apparently as a form of picture test, with Beech picking out people he had already named.

The pair also visited locations apparently relevant to the allegations, including Dolphin Square, an apartment block in central London, which has long been home to MPs and other notable figures, and the London home of the former Prime Minister Sir Edward Heath.

'Nick'

Beech was also taken to Parliament to meet Tom Watson, who subsequently stayed in touch with him.

During his later interviews with detectives from the Met, Beech said Watson had been part of a "little group that was supporting me and trying to put some of my information out there to try and encourage others to come forward".

The MP had previously triggered various Met inquiries after passing the force a series of allegations.

CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE

Beech had been given the pseudonym "Nick" in Exaro's coverage of his allegations. These came to the notice of Scotland Yard, who asked for access to their source.

Beech met detectives, and went on to give them 20 hours of recorded testimony. But in contrast to his earlier interviews with Wiltshire Police, Beech now started giving detectives multiple names - falsely implicating a string of famous figures at the heart of British public life in the 1970s and 1980s.

From the military, he named two former heads of the armed forces, Lord Bramall and Sir Roland Gibbs, and another senior general, Sir Hugh Beach.

The former chiefs of MI5 and MI6, Sir Michael Hanley and Sir Maurice Oldfield, as well as the former Prime Minister Sir Edward Heath, former Home Secretary Lord Brittan, and the ex-MPs Harvey Proctor and Lord Janner, also became part of his story.

Beech alleged his stepfather handed him over to this "group" and that it operated using chauffeurs who collected him from school or his local railway station.

Despite his apparent strong recall of incidents involving famous names, he offered nothing tangible about the various drivers, witnesses and non-famous abusers his account incorporated.

Murder claims

Sadistic abuse was alleged to have taken place at various military sites in southern England, before the locations switched to central London hotels and properties, after he moved to Kingston with his mother.

He claimed other boys were present at the sessions, which were said to include torture and elaborate punishments such as electrocution, being used as a human dartboard, and having spiders tipped over his naked body.

"I couldn't scream because if you screamed then the chances are one would go in your mouth," he told detectives.

Beech even said the MI5 boss oversaw the abduction of his dog and "collared" him outside school to threaten that if he failed to follow orders the pet would come to harm.

He provided the first names of other boys, including Aubrey and someone he claimed to still be in touch with, who was given the pseudonym "Fred".

Most significantly of all, Beech alleged he had witnessed the murders of three children. These were claims that he had not previously made to Wiltshire police.

CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE

One - a schoolmate called Scott - was said to have been deliberately run over by a car in a Kingston street as some kind of warning by the group.

The second - an unnamed boy - was alleged to have been stabbed and strangled by Harvey Proctor in a London townhouse.

The third, also unnamed, was said to have been beaten to death by Proctor and Sir Michael Hanley, while Lord Brittan and several children watched.

Beech claimed that, on a separate occasion, Proctor was only prevented from removing his genitals with a penknife after Sir Edward Heath intervened.

Scotland Yard launched a disastrous murder investigation, codenamed Operation Midland.

Within weeks - before any major investigative steps had been taken - there was a high-profile appeal for witnesses.

The accuser was publicly praised by the officer overseeing the inquiry, Det Supt Kenny MacDonald, who said detectives considered his account to be "credible and true" and stated: "We do believe what Nick is saying".

Details of Beech's murder allegations had already appeared on the Exaro site and in the Sunday People newspaper. In November 2014, a television interview with him had led the main BBC News bulletins.

The men he accused were not named, but it was reported that they included senior figures from politics, the military and law enforcement.

His contact with the media fed into the police investigation.

Damning report

A later review of Operation Midland by retired judge Sir Richard Henriques said journalists making their own inquiries had provided an "unwelcome intrusion" by showing him pictures of suspects, potentially relevant locations, and missing or murdered boys.

BBC home affairs correspondent Tom Symonds, who interviewed Beech, had shown him images from recent newspaper stories of two boys who vanished from London in the late 70s and early 80s, one of whom Beech subsequently claimed was the victim of the second murder he claimed to have witnessed.

The child - Martin Allen, a 15-year-old who disappeared in 1979 - became a focus of the police inquiry and detectives contacted his family.

Beech claimed Allen had been held at an address in Pimlico, central London, before being killed. But he only identified the property after he had been shown an image of it by Exaro's Conrad.

Beech then drew a picture of the property in a notebook, but claimed to police that he had done it sometime before from memory. The flat had once been occupied by a paedophile called Alfred Leslie Goddard, who was connected to a murderous gang of abusers that included Sidney Cooke - a child killer and one of Britain's most notorious paedophiles.

GETTY IMAGES

Other location sketches were also given to police and Beech later falsely claimed that he recognised several places from memory - such as military bases and the former homes of suspects - when taken on site visits by detectives.

The reality, though, was that he had carried out extensive research about people and places on the internet.

It was enough to convince Scotland Yard.

When Lord Brittan died in January 2015, Tom Watson wrote an article in the Sunday People newspaper to accompany its revelation that the peer was under investigation by Operation Midland.

Watson wrote how one "survivor" told him that Lord Brittan was "as close to evil as a human being could get in my view".

That person, it can now be revealed, was Carl Beech.

In the article, Watson wrote: "It is not for me to judge whether the claims made against Brittan are true."

But, the following month, he tweeted: "I think I have made my position on Leon Brittan perfectly clear. I believe the people who say he raped them."

CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE

In March 2015, Operation Midland raided the homes of Harvey Proctor, Lord Bramall, and the recently deceased Lord Brittan.

Proctor, who lived and worked at Belvoir Castle in Leicestershire, which was owned by the Duke and Duchess of Rutland, subsequently lost both his job and home.

Beech was informed of the raids in a phone call from a detective who was standing in Harvey Proctor's house.

The raids were reported in the media, with a consequent loss of anonymity for the accused.

Just before news about the raids on Lord Brittan and Lord Bramall was reported by Exaro, Beech emailed his main police contact DC Danny Chatfield to say that the website wanted to publish a piece encouraging other victims to come forward and wanted a quote.

Beech sent a draft set of comments, which included the line: "There are some excellent detectives from the Metropolitan Police who are working on the information that I have given to them."

The detective replied: "The wording is fine with us, so please go ahead."

He then sent Beech the approximate locations of the searches, saying Exaro had been asking for them.

CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE

Beech wrote back: "Thanks for telling me the other places."

However, the search warrants were flawed and contained inaccurate information.

Compensation payment

It was one of many errors.

The officers who interviewed Beech had not read his earlier Wiltshire interview, which would have revealed inconsistencies in his account of the alleged abuse.

Officers seemed keen not to upset Beech.

They failed to prioritise the tracing of important witnesses, such as people who worked alongside some of the accused at the relevant time.

Some of them were not initially approached because officers wanted to avoid upsetting Beech, who kept expressing discomfort and demanding updates on progress.

For example, his mother was not contacted for more than six months, even though her son had been living with her throughout the period under investigation.

It took them longer to contact Beech's ex-wife, Dawn, who would eventually give evidence against him at trial.

Officers also took months to trace all of the boys called Scott from Beech's secondary school to rule out the possibility that any had been murdered in Kingston. Two detectives were also unnecessarily sent to Australia to speak to one former student in person.

Beech was also helped by Met detectives to get a claim processed that he had previously made to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority, following the allegations he made to Wiltshire police.

The information contained in this claim was inconsistent with the story that he had told the Met.

Beech eventually received a payout of £22,000, some of which he used to buy an expensive Ford Mustang. Pictures of the car were uploaded to his Facebook page with Beech declaring that it had "always been a dream" to own the convertible.

In terms of the investigation, Beech was keen to keep across details of the case, pestering officers about whether arrests were imminent, and insisting that he wanted the case to go to court.

Who is 'Fred'?

Police were desperate to speak to a man who Beech claimed was abused alongside him as a child and had witnessed one of the alleged murders.

He claimed he was still in touch with this man, who was given the name "Fred", and agreed to pass on emails from the police. A psychologist Dr Elly Hanson, then acted as a go-between for the police. She wrote that Operation Midland was "committed to documenting the truth" and would do so "whatever that entails, including exposing prominent people".

"Fred" appeared reticent to come forward, telling Hanson in an email: "Nick and I went through Hell together but he's dealt with it a lot better than I ever will."

"Fred" told police his real name was John, but declined to meet them or elaborate about the allegations, hinting darkly that: "I have received a threat that I take seriously. I have not told Carl about this, but if they can trace me, they can trace him."

It would transpire later, after detectives from a different force examined the encrypted email account, that the man behind it was Carl Beech himself.

"Fred" was yet another fiction.

CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE

Operation Midland started to flounder, but the public turning point came when Harvey Proctor held a furious press conference to denounce both Scotland Yard and Beech's allegations. He set them out in graphic detail to show the public how implausible they were.

The media, particularly the Daily Mail and the BBC's Panorama programme, challenged the Met by casting serious doubt on the allegations. Senior officers - including the Commissioner Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe - publicly defended their operation.

Beech himself began withdrawing cooperation and cancelled interviews with police, who now wanted to challenge him on various inconsistencies.

The emails from "Fred" also ceased.

In January 2016, Lord Bramall was told he would face no further action. His wife Avril had died during the inquiry.

The operation ended in March 2016 when Harvey Proctor - the final living suspect - was also told he would face no further investigation.

Both men had been interviewed under caution twice.

Scotland Yard stated that it had investigated the possibility that Martin Allen was one of the alleged murder victims and said they had no reason to believe "Nick" had misled them.

But it was forced to commission a review of the investigation, which was carried out by Sir Richard Henriques.

The retired judge's report was damning. It listed 43 serious errors and said Operation Midland should have been terminated much earlier. It said the inquiry could have been completed without the accused ever having learnt about it.

The Met apologised and later paid compensation to Lord Bramall and the family of Lord Brittan. Harvey Proctor is currently suing the force, which is resisting his claim in the High Court.

Scotland Yard referred Beech for investigation by the independent Northumbria Police.

Detectives arrived at his Gloucester home on 2 November 2016, and what they found there revealed that Beech was himself a paedophile.

Three of his devices - two laptops and an iPad - contained hundreds of child sexual abuse images, including dozens denoting the gravest abuse imagery.

Some of the images had been hidden behind an app that appeared to be calculator.

It also became clear that Beech was a perverted voyeur - he had installed a recording device in a toilet to secretly film a young boy.

Beech, who had volunteered for the NSPCC, was relieved of his position as a governor at two local schools and suspended from his CQC role.

His role would be terminated the following summer - a time when Beech was charged with six counts relating to the images and one count of voyeurism.

A year later he was charged with 12 counts of perverting the course of justice and one of fraud.

The charges detailed the many ways in which he had lied. He had fabricated the murders, invented the paedophile ring, and lied about the serious injuries.

He had given police a small knife - the one he claimed Harvey Proctor had wanted to castrate him with - and two military epaulettes, falsely alleging he had retained them from when he was abused as a child.

The knife had actually been used by his grandmother to cut fruit and had been kept by Beech for years in a "happy memory box".

Beech, who was on bail, was due to stand trial in Worcester for the sexual offences last summer.

Instead, he went on the run.

When he failed to turn up for his trial at Worcester Crown Court, a warrant was issued for his arrest.

Paedophile fantasies

A manhunt focused on Sweden, where he was known to frequent, and two months later, he was arrested at Gothenburg railway station.

When apprehended, he was in possession of a knife and rope.

Beech had gone to extraordinary lengths to avoid detection. He had bought a remote house in the far north of the country under an assumed name. He moved around using five different aliases, six phones, numerous email addresses and making purchases with untraceable gift cards.

On the first morning of his trial for child sexual offences in January he pleaded guilty to all counts.

But he denied the charges in the larger case, leading to a 12-week trial at Newcastle Crown Court.

The evidence showed he had pieced together his story using the internet to research those he accused.

The sketches he had given to police, suggesting a surprising visual recall of places he was allegedly taken as a child, had been copied from online photographs.

His body lacked scars and injuries and his medical history was free of any such traumas, despite his stories of childhood broken bones, burns, and savage beatings.

School records and former classmates showed he was not absent in the way he alleged.

He based "Fred" - or "John" - on the best man at his wedding, using details about his life to make the pretence more credible.

The best man, who told police he had never been abused by anyone, was not the only former Beech friend falsely dragged into his claims.

His so-called friend Aubrey was based on a childhood acquaintance from Bicester, who was traced and also confirmed that he had not been abused, as alleged.

It also emerged that Beech was a prolific writer of fantasies that had not been published online, some of which were found in his garage or on a memory stick.

The details they contained contradicted his accounts to police, confusing and blending still further the alleged roles of "John", "Aubrey" and others.

Under cross examination, Beech admitted various parts of the documents, which included his draft memoirs, were fiction.

Beech, who nevertheless insisted most of his claims were true, was totally absorbed in his violent paedophile fantasies, imagining parts for people he knew, then changing their roles and adding in new characters as he went along.

In the witness box, habitually pausing and humming when asked a seemingly unanticipated question about his account, Beech had the look of a man scanning his mind for a lie dressed as a memory.

It seemed natural for him to transpose self-pity into apparent vulnerability and sadness at what he claimed occurred in his childhood.

Prosecutors said his motivations were varied.

Money was one. Beech was in debt and spending beyond his means, including on lavish holidays.

He also enjoyed the attention, with a supportive community of online followers, his media appearances, and access to the police and Parliament all bolstering his sense of self importance.

Beech also seemed to admire - and even to have copied - some of the claims contained in a book by an American alleged abuse victim. His own memoirs and plans to become a speaker at conferences would have provided him with a new income.

In addition, prosecutors regarded his interest in child pornography as central, saying he watched it, possessed it, recorded young boys covertly, and wrote about it over hundreds of pages - all suggesting he also wanted to be a part of it.

Jenny Hopkins, from the Crown Prosecution Service, said Beech was not a fantasist or a victim, but a "manipulative, prolific, deceitful liar" who would have been happy to see innocent men arrested and facing the full force of the law.

Harvey Proctor, who gave evidence at trial, is calling for a fully independent investigation into Operation Midland, which he calls the "worst failing in the history of policing in the last 40 years".

He said Beech's "criminality and the Metropolitan Police's gullibility have threatened the future position of genuine child abuse complainants".

Lord Bramall, now 95, was not well enough to attend court.

His long-time friend General Sir Hugh Beach gave evidence by video link from his retirement home.

Sir Hugh, 96, was interviewed as a witness - rather than a suspect - by Met detectives.

He says the "mental wear and tear to Lord Bramall must have been enormous in the circumstances".

He thinks Beech's crimes are "damaging to the society at large" but "particularly damaging to the people who were the victims of this man's fabrications."

Beech is, quite simply, he says, an "evil man".

Related Topics

West Midlands Police **Long Reads** **Metropolitan Police Service**

Share this story About sharing

UK

Labour and Lib Dems criticise floods response

12 November 2019 | England | 1340

Ex-soldier held in Dubai over drugs to be released

12 November 2019 | Nottingham

Royal Mail fails to halt record £50m Ofcom fine

12 November 2019 | Business

Top Stories

Floods response criticised on campaign trail
Jeremy Corbyn and Jo Swinson say the government has not done enough as they make it an election issue.
9 hours ago

Labour and Lib Dems criticise floods response
45 minutes ago

HS2 should happen despite rising cost, review says
4 hours ago

Features

Can being kind help you live longer?

Inside the primary school class with 63 pupils

Sonic The Hedgehog gets 'glow up of the century'

How black people shaped France

The family refusing to let their mining town collapse

Are you fooled by this Johnson-Corbyn video?

Hundred explosions in Sweden: What's going on?

'I woke up to thousands of messages from Malaysia'

Is China gaining an edge in artificial intelligence?

Elsewhere on the BBC

LIVE: Ka-RY-oke!

24 hour singing challenge for Children In Need

Daily news briefing direct to your inbox

Sign up for our newsletter

Most Read

Primark guard preyed on shoplifting teenage girls 1

Sarah Barrass and Brandon Machin jailed for murdering sons 2

Poland reacts angrily to Netflix Nazi death camp documentary 3

Joseph McCann: Man embarked on 'series of depraved sex attacks' 4

Hong Kong protests: Rule of law on 'brink of collapse', police say 5

Israel kills top Palestinian Islamic Jihad militant in Gaza 6

General election 2019: Campaign latest 7

'I woke up to thousands of messages from Malaysia' 8

Stop right now: Mel B advert pulled by Tesco after singer complains 9

England flooding: Labour and Lib Dems criticise response 10

Why you can trust BBC News

BBC News Services

On your mobile

On your connected tv

Get news alerts

Contact BBC News

Explore the BBC

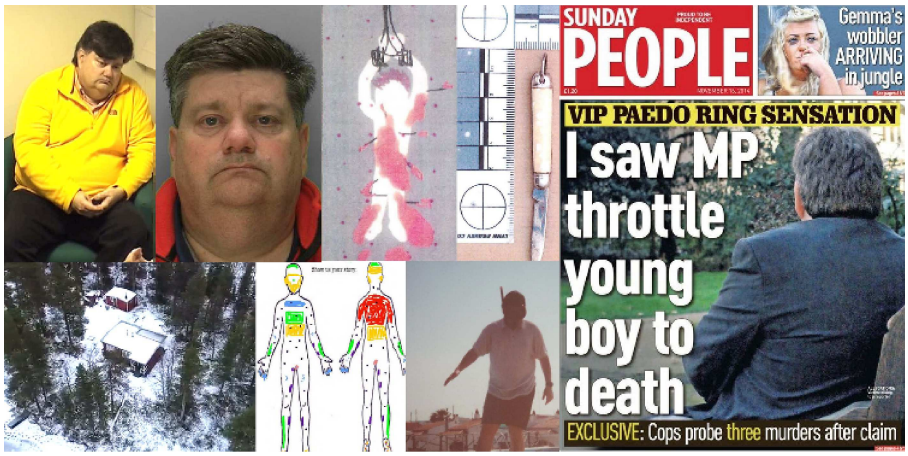
Home	News
Sport	Weather
iPlayer	Sounds
CBBC	CBeebies
Food	Bitesize
Arts	Taster
Local	TV
Radio	Three

Terms of Use
About the BBC
Privacy Policy
Cookies
Accessibility Help
Parental Guidance
Contact the BBC
Get Personalised Newsletters

Copyright © 2019 BBC. The BBC is not responsible for the content of external sites. **Read about our approach to external linking.**

UPDATED: How the CPS proved the case against serial liar 'Nick' over false claims of VIP child abuse ring

26 July 2019 | *News, Fraud and economic crime , Sexual offences*


SUNDAY PEOPLE
Gemma's wobbler ARRIVING in jungle
VIP PAEDO RING SENSATION
I saw MP throttle young boy to death
EXCLUSIVE: Cops probe three murders after claim

UPDATED: The man known as 'Nick', whose false child abuse allegations sparked a £2 million investigation into a VIP paedophile ring, will spend 18 years in jail after the CPS proved him to be a serial liar and a fraud.

Carl Beech, 51, was convicted of 12 counts of perverting the course of justice on 22 July after telling police he was among many victims of high-profile establishment figures who raped and murdered children in the 1970s and 1980s.

Today, Friday 26 July, he has been sentenced to 18 years in jail for these offences.

The former CQC inspector and school governor - who also fraudulently received £22,000 in compensation for abuse that never happened - was eventually exposed as a paedophile himself after indecent images were found on his electronic devices.

From 2012 to 2015, Beech repeatedly lied to detectives about being transported to 'sex parties' across southern England as a child, where he claimed to have suffered sadistic abuse at the hands of a VIP 'group'.

Perpetrators were said to include former Prime Minister Ted Heath, former MP Harvey Proctor, Lord Edwin Bramall and Jimmy Savile.

Among Beech's most disturbing fabrications was that he had witnessed Mr Proctor murdering two children, one of whom he went on to identify as missing boy Martin Allen.

Beech gave police a pen-knife the politician supposedly used to threaten him with, telling officers: "I hope there will be enough evidence to see him [Mr Proctor] in court".

His false account led to Mr Proctor having his home searched and being questioned under caution for six hours as part of Operation Midland.

Operation Midland eventually closed in 2016 without any arrests - but not before Beech's stories had cost an estimated £2 million to investigate.

The trained nurse continued to maintain his account was true throughout a ten-week trial at Newcastle Crown Court, in the face of compelling evidence demonstrating the opposite.

Liz Reid, CPS Specialist Prosecutor, said: "The case of 'Nick' is quite unlike any other we have come across, with public figures accused in open court of the most serious crimes imaginable.

"But instead of appearing in court as a whistleblower exposing a sinister paedophile ring, Carl Beech ended up in the dock himself.

"By the end of the trial, the evidence had demonstrated that he was an arrogant, professional fraudster, who enjoyed the limelight and had become confident and determined in his lies.

"Notwithstanding the millions it cost to investigate his claims, Beech caused unimaginable distress to the men he falsely accused and all the families caught up in his deception. Many of the accused were dead and unable to defend themselves."

Building the case

In November 2016, Beech was himself investigated by Northumbria Police and his devices seized.

On examination, they were found to contain images of child abuse and a voyeuristic recording of a boy - all while he was trying to convince police he had himself been the victim of a paedophile ring.

The prosecution said Beech's own sexual interest in children was one of the reasons he may have made for such a compelling witness in the Midland inquiry.

Jurors also heard how Beech enjoyed the attention his tales attracted.

He had published 57 blogs under the name of 'Carl Chassereau', begun writing his 'memoirs' and in 2015 gave a presentation at a conference titled 'Child Sexual Exploitation: Living with Abuse'.

As his lies unravelled, Beech went on the run to Sweden and had to be extradited back to the UK to face court proceedings.

Liz Reid added: "The CPS would like to make clear that Beech's actions betray true victims, who should never be afraid of coming forward to reveal abuse.

"It is important to remember the impact his lies have had on survivors of abuse, who took Beech into their confidence and for whom he was apparently setting himself up as a champion and spokesperson.

"We do not prosecute individuals who are unclear on details or because there are discrepancies or doubts about their evidence.

"Beech's allegations took on a unique perspective when his accounts of the most traumatic abuse imaginable were investigated by a second police force and found to contain multiple provable, significant and deliberate lies."

The seven key lies and fabrications the CPS used to convict Beech

Alongside the absence of evidence to support Carl Beech's claims the CPS was able to use evidence in court to show seven key claims he had fabricated or lied about.

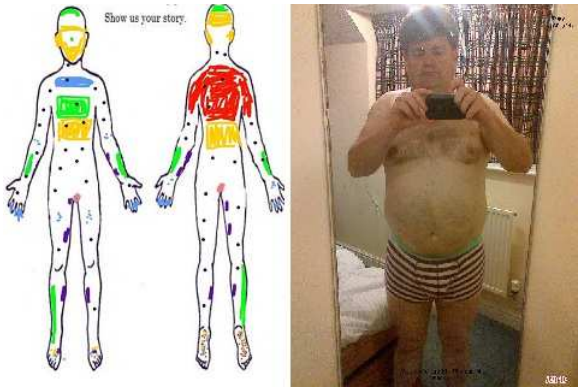
Claim 1:

That being tortured at swimming pools by having his head held under water by a 'group' at Dolphin Square had given him a life fear of and inability to swim.
Reality: He enjoyed swimming and did so all over the world, appearing a happy and healthy child – from theme parks to snorkelling on honeymoon. He even had a diving lesson with an oxygen tank.

Beech swimming and Dolphin Square sketch

Claim 2:

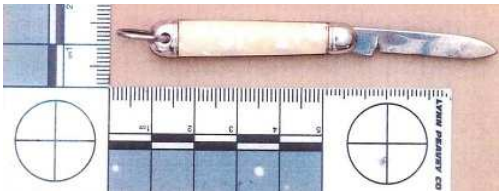
He was subjected to electric shock treatment and suffered countless fractures to his head and body, puncture wounds to his groin - which he sketched for his counsellor.
Reality: His ex-wife never noticed any marks on his body, medical records only show a skiing injury sustained aged 15. He refused even a very basic medical examination during the police investigation.



Bodymap and Beech mirror selfie

Claim 3:

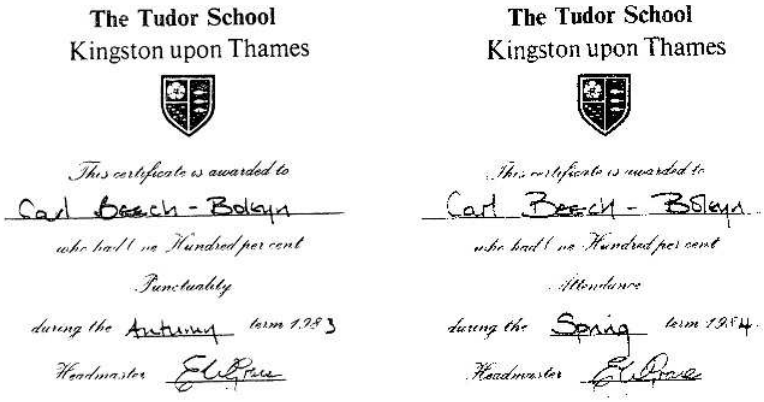
That Harvey Proctor threatened to cut his genitals with a pen-knife. The knife, held together by two epaulettes from 'military officers', was handed to the inquiry during a police interview.
Reality: His wife recognised the pen-knife as an item stored among Beech's treasures in his 'happy memories' box. Police forensic tests came back negative.



Penknife

Claim 4:

That he was regularly taken out of school and abused at more than 20 locations across London and the South East from the ages of 7 to 16.
Reality: School reports show his attendance was good - indeed one year he even received an award for 100% punctuality.



Beech school certificates

Claim 5:

Beech sketched for police the locations he was abused at based, he said, on memories 'flashing up in his head'.
Reality: His initial images from 2012 were more akin to a toddler's drawing. By 2014 they featured the precise number of steps at the Carlton Club. This is because they were all the product of extensive research readily available by internet search and matched to Beech's devices.

Beech sketches of alleged abuse and (top centre) the Carlton Club

Claim 6:

That he witnessed the murder of three children - Scott, who was run over because 'the group' would not allow him to have friendships. Martin Allen, missing since 1979, was allegedly tied up a stabbed by Harvey Proctor. And another child was selected to be murdered in front of Beech and witness named as 'Fred'.

Reality: Extensive inquiries revealed Scott never existed, while the brother of Martin Allen was given false hope that his brother's disappearance could finally be explained.

E-fits made by Beech of the 'missing boys'

Claim 7:

Supposed witness 'Fred', was apparently liaising with Beech via a Protonmail account, and eventually contacted police directly to express his fears over cooperating with the investigation.

Reality: 'Fred' never existed and the emails were revealed by Proton Technologies' HQ in Geneva to have been registered by Beech himself

Notes to editors

- Carl Beech (DOB: 23/01/1968), of Gloucester, was convicted of 12 counts of perverting the course of justice and one count of fraud at Newcastle Crown Court and has been sentenced to 18 years in prison.
- At Worcester Crown Court in January, he admitted four counts of making indecent images of children, one count of possessing indecent images of children and one count of voyeurism
- Liz Reid is a Specialist Prosecutor with the CPS Special Crime Division.

Further reading

Related news

View all news

Brutal Bradford rapist sentenced to life

23 October 2019

Sexual offences, Violent crime

Rapist who hit victim over the head with a hammer jailed for 13 years

21 October 2019

Sexual offences, Violent crime

Primark security guard in Kingston convicted of rape

12 November 2019

Sexual offences

Man sentenced for benefit fraud and obtaining a false passport

12 November 2019

Fraud and economic crime

Ma film cha swi

Sexu

Related publications

View all publications

Directors' Guidance to accompany the Attorney General's Guidelines on Plea Discussions in cases of Serious or Complex Fraud

— 24 May 2012

Fraud and economic crime

Related prosecution guidance

View all prosecution guidance

Legal Guidance on Prosecuting Welfare, Rural and Health Division Cases

Fraud and economic crime

Financial Reporting Orders

Fraud and economic crime

Benefit Fraud

Fraud and economic crime

Forgery and Counterfeiting

Fraud and economic crime

The

Frau

@cpsuk

A Primark security guard who sexually exploited young girls who had been caught shoplifting has been found guilty o... https://t.co/AiXWBZshVq

The Crown Prosecution Service
102 Petty France,
London, SW1H 9EA

GOV.UK is the place to find government's services and information online.

Follow us

Careers | Feedback and complaints | Data protection | Advocate Panels

Crown Copyright and disclaimer Sitemap Privacy and cookies

© Copyright 2017 CPS. All rights reserved.

End-to-End Encryption

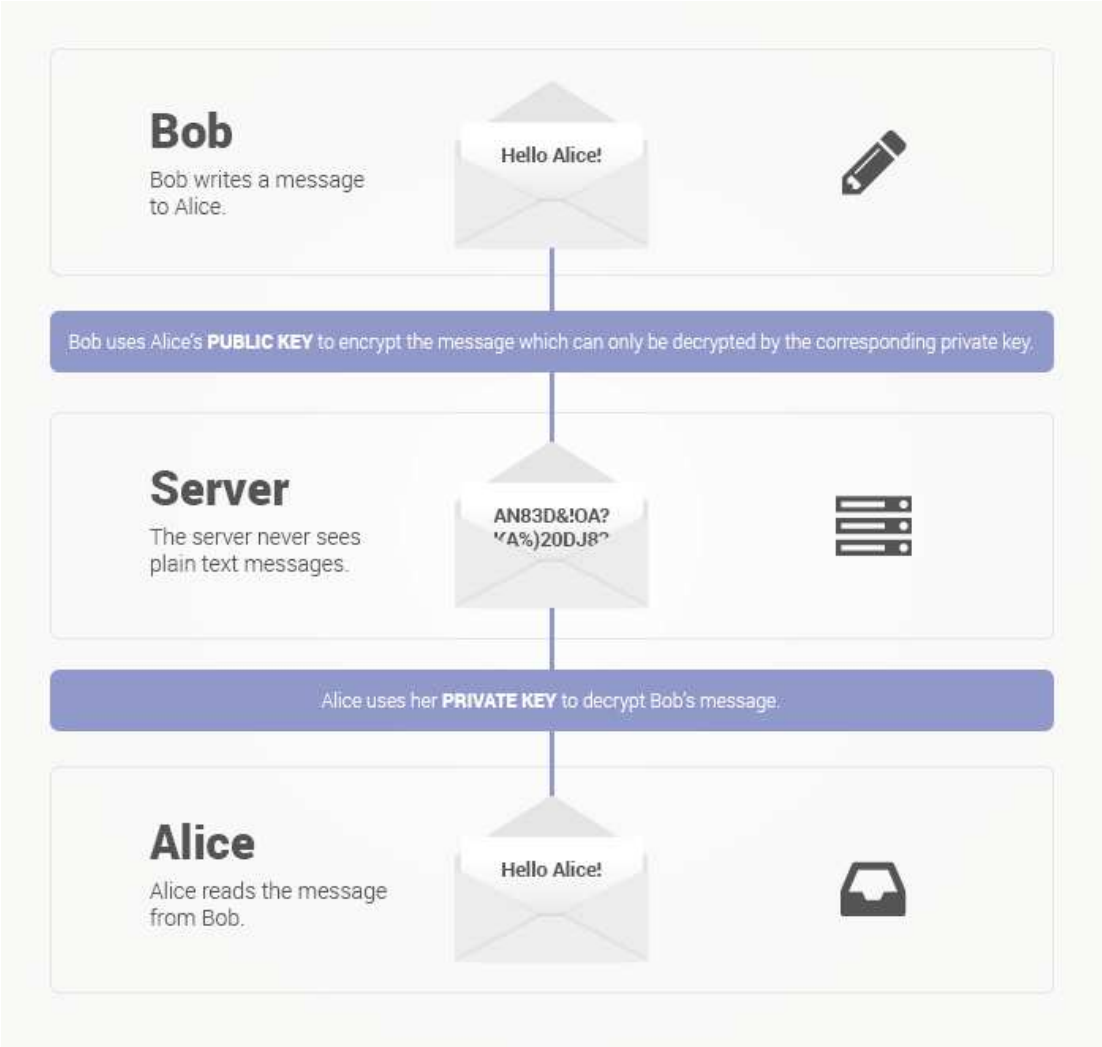
Messages are encrypted at all times

Messages are stored on ProtonMail servers in encrypted format. They are also transmitted in encrypted format between our servers and user devices. Messages between ProtonMail users are also transmitted in encrypted form within our secure server network. Because data is encrypted at all steps, the risk of message interception is largely eliminated.

Zero Access to User Data

Your encrypted data is not accessible to us

ProtonMail's zero access architecture means that your data is encrypted in a way that makes it inaccessible to us. Data is encrypted on the client side using an encryption key that we do not have access to. This means we don't have the technical ability to decrypt your messages, and as a result, we are unable to hand your data over to third parties. With ProtonMail, privacy isn't just a promise, it is mathematically ensured. For this reason, we are also unable to do data recovery. If you forget your password, we cannot recover your data.


Bob
Bob writes a message to Alice.
Hello Alice!
Bob uses Alice's PUBLIC KEY to encrypt the message which can only be decrypted by the corresponding private key.
Server
The server never sees plain text messages.
AN83D&!OA?
Alice uses her PRIVATE KEY to decrypt Bob's message.
Alice
Alice reads the message from Bob.
Hello Alice!

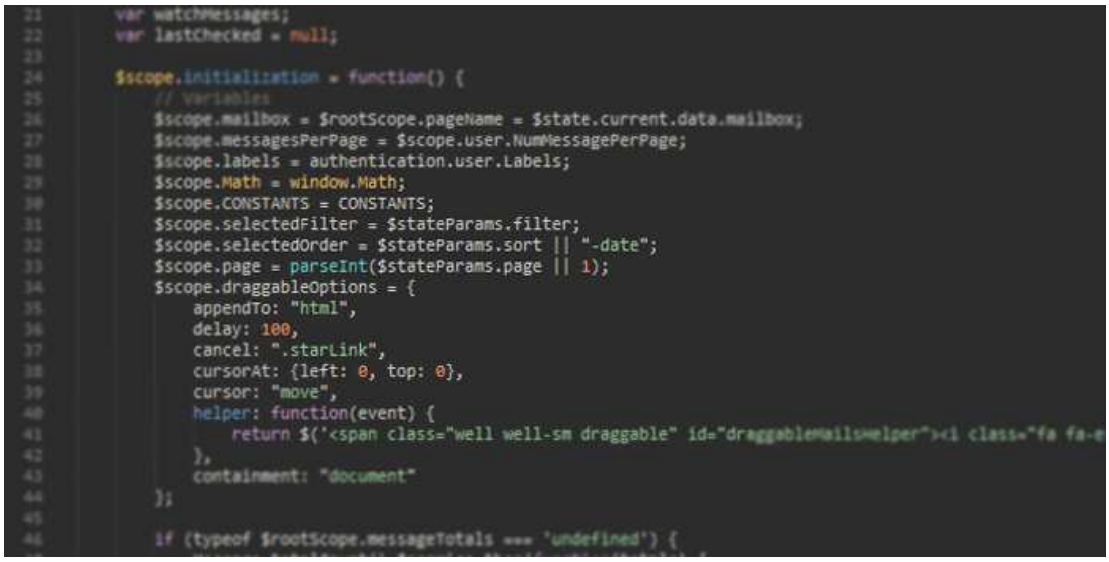
End-to-end encryption means that no one but the intended recipient can read the message

Open Source Cryptography

Time-tested and trusted encryption algorithms

We use only secure implementations of AES, RSA, along with OpenPGP. Furthermore, all of the cryptographic libraries we use are open source. By using open source libraries, we can guarantee that the encryption algorithms we are using do not have clandestinely built in back doors. ProtonMail's open source software has been thoroughly vetted by security experts from around the world to ensure the highest levels of protection.

Learn about ProtonMail and Open Source (https://protonmail.com/blog/protonmail-open-source



By using open source encryption libraries, we can help guard against back doors designed to compromise your privacy.

Swiss Based

Incorporated in Switzerland

All user data is protected by the Swiss Federal Data Protection Act (DPA) and the Swiss Federal Data Protection Ordinance (DPO) which offers some of the strongest privacy protection in the world for both individuals and corporations. As ProtonMail is outside of US and EU jurisdiction, only a court order from the Cantonal Court of Geneva or the Swiss Federal Supreme Court can compel us to release the extremely limited user information we have.

Learn more (https://protonmail.com/blog/switzerland/)

Hardware Level Security

Full disk encryption and storage in secured datacenters

We have invested heavily in owning and controlling our own server hardware at several locations within Switzerland **so your data never goes to the cloud.** Our primary datacenter is located under 1000 meters of granite rock in a heavily guarded bunker which can survive a nuclear attack. This provides an extra layer of protection by ensuring your encrypted emails are not easily accessible to any third parties. On a system level, our servers utilize fully encrypted hard disks with multiple password layers so data security is preserved even if our hardware is seized.

All ProtonMail servers and network traffic are encrypted

Anonymous

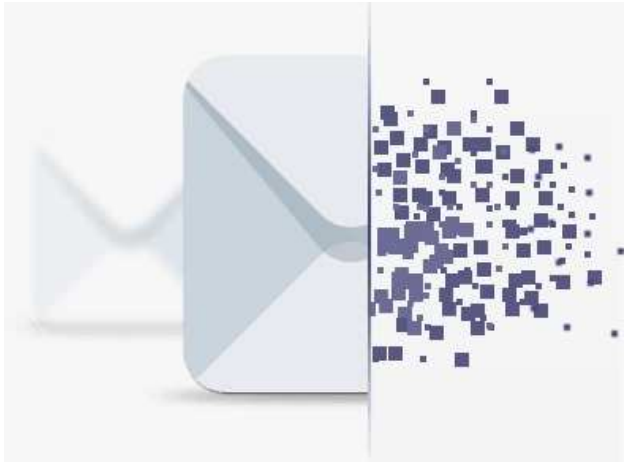
No tracking or logging of personally identifiable information

Unlike competing services, we do not save any tracking information. By default, we do not record metadata such as the IP addresses used to log into accounts. As we have no way to read encrypted emails, we do not serve targeted advertisements. To protect user privacy, ProtonMail does not require any personally identifiable information to register.

Self Destructing Messages

With ProtonMail, emails are no longer permanent

You can set an optional expiration time on ProtonMail's encrypted emails, so they will be automatically deleted from the recipient's inbox once they have expired. This technology works for both emails sent to other ProtonMail users, and encrypted emails sent to non-ProtonMail email addresses. Similar to SnapChat, we've added a way for you to have ephemeral communication.



SSL Secured Connections

Swiss SSL to secure your connection!

We use SSL to secure communication between our server and your computer. Message data between our server and your computer is already sent encrypted, but we use SSL to add another layer of protection and to ensure that the web page your browser loads is not tampered with by a third party intercepting your traffic in a MITM (Man in the Middle) attack.

Our SSL certificate authority (CA) is QuoVadis Trustlink Schweiz AG (https://www.quovadisglobal.ch/), a leading Swiss SSL certificate issuer. Using a Swiss based CA ensures that our CA's SSL infrastructure is not under the control of US or EU government agencies. To allow extremely security conscious users to further verify that they are in fact connecting to our server, we have also released the SHA1 and SHA-256 hash for our SSL public key.

Securely communicate with other email providers

Even your communication with non-ProtonMail users can be secure

We support sending encrypted communication to non-ProtonMail users via symmetric encryption. When you send an encrypted message to a non-ProtonMail user, they receive a link which loads the encrypted message onto their browser, which they can decrypt using a passphrase that you have shared with them. You can also send unencrypted messages to Gmail, Yahoo, Outlook and others, just like regular email.

Easy to Use

Comprehensive Security for Everyone

We created ProtonMail because we found that none of the existing secure email services available today are sufficiently secure. However, a secure service like ProtonMail cannot improve the security landscape if it is so difficult to use, nobody can use it. From the start, we designed ProtonMail with a strong emphasis on usability. As a result, ProtonMail is very easy to use. There is nothing to install, and no encryption keys to manage, if you can use Gmail, Thunderbird, or Outlook, you can use ProtonMail.

Learn More About ProtonMail

Why Switzerland (https://protonmail.com/blog/switzerland/)

Threat Model (https://protonmail.com/blog/protonmail-threat-model/)

Transparency Report (https://protonmail.com/blog/transparency-report/)

Bug Bounty Program (https://protonmail.com/blog/protonmail-bug-bounty-program/)

Sign up (signup)

Get your secure email account

Create Account (signup)

Proton Technologies AG

Chemin du Pré-Fleuri, 3
CH-1228 Plan-les-Ouates, Genève, Switzerland

✉ General: Show email (mailto:contact@protonmail.com)
✉ Media: media@protonmail.com (mailto:media@protonmail.com)
✉ Legal: legal@protonmail.com (mailto:legal@protonmail.com)
✉ Partnership: partners@protonmail.com (mailto:p%61r%74n%65%72%73@p%72oton%6da%69l%2ecom)

✉ Security: security@protonmail.com (mailto:security@protonmail.com)
✉ Abuse: abuse@protonmail.com (mailto:abuse@protonmail.com)
For legal/police inquiries
click here (https://protonmail.com/law-enforcement)

For support inquiries, please visit
➔ protonmail.com/support (https://protonmail.com/support)

ProtonMail

Pricing (https://protonmail.com/pricing)

Security (https://protonmail.com/security-details)

Shop (https://shop.protonmail.com/)

Press/Media Kit (https://protonmail.com/press)

Onion Site (https://protonmail.com/tor)

ProtonMail Status (https://protonstatus.com/)

Features

iOS App (https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/protonmail-encrypted-email/id979659905)

Android App (https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=ch.protonmail.android)

IMAP/SMTP Bridge (https://protonmail.com/bridge)

ProtonVPN (https://protonvpn.com/)

Business Email (https://protonmail.com/support/knowledge-base/business/)

Encrypted Contacts (https://protonmail.com/support/knowledge-base/encrypted-contacts/)

Legal

Imprint (https://protonmail.com/imprint)

Privacy Policy (https://protonmail.com/privacy-policy)

Terms & Conditions (https://protonmail.com/terms-and-conditions)

Transparency Report (https://protonmail.com/blog/transparency-report/)

Report Abuse (mailto:abuse@protonmail.com)

GDPR Compliance (https://protonmail.com/gdpr)

Company

Blog (https://protonmail.com/blog/)

Team (https://protonmail.com/about)

Careers (https://careers.protonmail.com/)

Support (https://protonmail.com/support/)

Donate (https://protonmail.com/donate)

Open Source (https://protonmail.com/blog/openpgpjs-3-release/)

Social

Facebook (https://facebook.com/ProtonMail)

Twitter (https://twitter.com/ProtonMail)

Reddit (https://www.reddit.com/r/ProtonMail/)

Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/protonmail/)

Mastodon (https://mastodon.social/@protonmail)

Feedback Forum (https://protonmail.uservoice.com/)

(https://www.innosuisse.ch/inno/en/home.html)

(https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en)

© 2019 Proton Technologies AG. All Rights Reserved.

English (/) | Català (/ca/) | Čeština (/cs/) | Dansk (/da/) | Deutsch (/de/) | Español (/es/) | Français (/fr/) | Hrvatski (/hr/) | Magyar (/hu/) | Inggris (/id/) | Íslenska (/is/) | Italiano (/it/) | 日本語 (/jp/) | Taqbaylit (/kab/) | Nederlands (/nl/) | Polski (/pl/) | Português (/pt/) | Português (/pt-br/) | Română (/ro/) | Русский (/ru/) | Svenska (/sv/) | Türkçe (/tr/) | українська (/ua/) | 简体中文 (/zh-Hans/) | 繁体中文 (/zh-Hant/)